

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01

/179 W

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R 241530Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, LU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL
VISIT TO EUROPE

1. LAST NIGHT, OCTOBER 23, FOREIGN MINISTER GASTON THORN TOLD ME THAT HE IS STILL VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF A VISIT BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO WESTERN EUROPE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. THORN COMMENTED THAT WE SHOULD NOT REALLY EXPECT THE U.S.-E.C. DECLARATION TO HAVE "ANY TEETH IN IT," BUT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PRESENCE IN EUROPE WOULD (1) GIVE A NECESSARY IMPETUS TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE E.C. AND THE U.S.,
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AND (2) PROVE TO THE DOUBTING EUROPEANS THAT THE U.S.

REALLY BELIEVES OUR RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE ARE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. THORN FURTHER OBSERVED THAT A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THOSE IN THE E.C. WHO FAVOR CLOSE TIES WITH THE U.S., IMPLYING THAT OCCASIONAL FRENCH OBSTRUCTIONISM COULD BE OVERCOME IF THE E.C. WERE GIVEN A FIRM TARGET DATE TO CONCLUDE THEIR PREPARATIONS.

2. THORN ADDED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND EUROPE IN THE PAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS SHOULD BE REEVALUED AND SHOULD BE ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF A FUTURE ERA. THE U.S. AND E.C. MUST DEVISE A NEW PLAN FOR CONTACTS WHICH ARE MORE IN KEEPING WITH CURRENT NEEDS AND ACTIVITIES. THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THE SIGNING OF A JOINT U.S.-E.C. DOCUMENT, BUT SHOULD BE THE FIRST STEP ON A PATH TO GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND E.C. FARKAS

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